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AT HOME & ABROAD



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DRAMA

VOL 15

MAY, MCMXXXVII

NUMBER 8

THE JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH DRAMA LEAGUE

PLAYS OF THE MONTH

By W. A. Darlington

IT is—I say it with sadness but no rancour—a more than usually dull month that it falls to my lot to write of. Dull, that is, so far as new plays are concerned.

Within the allotted time I have seen only nine new plays of any kind, and it is a legitimate generalisation to say that the serious ones were not good and the good ones were not serious. Of the two that seemed both to be serious and to have merit, one failed instantly and the other was put on for only one night.

The first of these was "Climbing," by Marten Cumberland. This was a very odd piece, and it introduced us to a very odd actor with the very odd name of Skelton Knaggs. It fulfilled all the requirements of genuine satire—as distinguished from the milk-and-water variety which is all that the London playgoer can bear—that is, it lashed the folly of the age unmercifully. It made you feel that an age in which such things could happen was not much of an age. And so it failed.

The other was Shirley Bax's "The Case of Constance Kent," which the Repertory Players tried out. I was not quite sure why Miss Bax had resurrected this crime of the 60's; but having done so, she used it to prove that she has most of the gifts that go to make a dramatist. Alexis France, as the 17-year-old girl who kills her baby half-brother in a fit of rage against her step-mother, added to a reputation already high.

The plays that ranked as good but not serious were Walter Hackett's "London After Dark," Anthony Armstrong's "Mile-Away Murder," and Gordon Sherry's "Black Limelight."

Mr. Hackett's play calls for no special comment. He writes to a formula, with great expertness and remarkable ingenuity. He tells a story, he provides some original settings (in this case a London mews, and the interiors of one bus and three taxis); and he fits Marion Lorne with a part.

"Mile-Away Murder" was largely spoilt for me, because I was never in doubt how the murder was done—or rather, I was in doubt only because the method used was so familiar (to me) that I could not think that Mr. Armstrong was using it again and expecting us not to "spot" it. Yet when I read the criticisms of my colleagues, I found that to most of them it was new. This was just an unlucky accident—I had been reading the wrong detective stories. So my advice to anybody is not to be put off by me, but to go and see D. A. Clarke-Smith's performance as the murderer who walks about telling everybody he did it, and defying them to prove it.

"Black Limelight" is the best of these three. At the moment of writing it is not yet in the West-End, but by the time this article appears in print Margaret Rawlings will, I do not doubt, be making the big success with it which the try-out at the "Q" foreshadowed.

The other four new plays were "Ride a Cock-Horse" and "Angelica"—translations from the Ish, and of no account, though the latter play had all the solemnity of the Stage Society behind it; Thea Holme's too slight "Roman Holiday," and a fairish play called "A Constant Sinner." The last two were both put on at try-out theatres.

I owe to Shakespeare the best evenings I have had in the theatre this month. "The

PLAYS OF THE MONTH

Taming of the Shrew," with Edith Evans as Katharina, made up for a good deal. This is not a very good play, but it can be made into first rate entertainment. Lavishly decorated and very carefully cast, and produced by Claude Gurney with no reverence for conventions whatever, this was the best production of the old farce that I have ever seen.

And Miss Evans, bringing to Kate the Shrew that something extra with which she endows nearly every part, made a real woman out of what was originally a knock-about part for a boy actor. She rationalised Kate by playing her first as a woman possessed of a devil, and then as a woman happy and relieved at being delivered from torment. Leslie Banks was a robust and resolute exorcist.

Laurence Olivier's "Henry V." was another notable piece of Shakespearean acting, and here also the production was notable for richness of colour. Mr. Olivier grows in power with every performance he gives, and though he lacks one essential quality which the great Shakespeare actor must have—a full appreciation of the music of the verse—he has all the other qualities in abundance. It is not that he speaks the verse badly. On the contrary, he delivers it exceedingly well. But, somehow, when I am listening to Mr. Olivier speaking Shakespeare's verse, I never experience that rush of sudden emotion at the sheer beauty of words which I got from Forbes-Robertson or Henry Ainley, and yet from John Gielgud or Godfrey Tearle.

UNIQUE THREE-ACT PLAY FESTIVAL

THE merry Coronation month of May finds the British Drama League also at a peak period of activity. The Community Drama Festival is fully dealt with elsewhere in this number, and we must apologise for the fact that this annual feature has necessarily crowded out much matter of topical interest.

But we must not forego the opportunity of making the important announcement, subject to revision, that in co-operation with the "News-Chronicle," the League is to initiate next Autumn a Three-act Play Festival open to all amateur dramatic societies in England, Scotland and Wales. For the purpose of this Festival Mr. J. B. Priestly is writing a new three-act play which has one set throughout and is to include approximately 12 characters, 4 men and 8 women. It is hoped that the play will be ready for publication during July, and entries must be sent in by September 15th at latest. Performances will be judged in their own localities and the five best productions will be invited to perform on consecutive nights in London during January, 1938. The entrance fee charged by the "News-Chronicle" is £5 5 0 to members of the Drama League, or £6 6 0 to other societies. It will be seen that this fee is equivalent to the ordinary Author's fee, and that no charge is made for adjudication. In fact, no other expenses whatever (other than the

usual production expenses) will be involved. Societies interested should at once apply for full particulars from the Drama League or from the "News-Chronicle."

By invitation of the Exhibition Authorities in Paris, the League has arranged for a collection of examples of contemporary scenic art to be shown at the International Exhibition in Paris this Summer. The collection includes 8 stage models and 20 designs by the most prominent professional scenic artists of the day. The collection will be shown in the French Pavilion and will be the only representative exhibit sent from this country. We must thank the British Council for their assistance towards the expenses involved in arranging the Collection.

In our next issue we hope to print a full report of the very interesting meeting on Drama in the Schools which was held in the Florence Restaurant on Saturday, April 10th. Over 70 School representatives attended and we think that a forward movement in the promotion of School Drama is now well in hand. We are further encouraged in this view by the large attendance of over 90 students at the special "School" held for teachers on Campden Hill during the week following the meeting.

BRITISH DRAMA LEAGUE COMMUNITY THEATRE FESTIVAL

This year the entries in the National Festival amounted to 648. As usual we print a complete list of the plays entered in the various areas. Those plays selected to appear in the Divisional Finals are designated by one asterisk, and in the Area Finals by two asterisks.

The Scottish Final was adjudicated (on behalf of the Scottish Community Drama Association) at Inverness by Mr. Gordon Gildard; the Welsh Final at Mardy by Mr. Rupert Harvey; The Northern Area Final at Chesterfield by Mr. Martin Browne; the Western Area Final at Bristol will be adjudicated by Mr. Iden Payne, and the Eastern Area Final at the Scala, London, by Mr. F. Sladen-Smith.

Of the five plays to appear at the Final Festival to be held in London at the Old Vic, on Monday evening May 31st, the following have already been selected. "Hewers of Coal" by Joe Corrie, presented by the Newbattle Burns Club Dramatic Society (Scotland). "A Rogue in Bed," by R. Elwy Mitchell, presented by Blackwood Dramatic Society (Wales). "The Willing Spirit" by Esther McCracken, presented by Newcastle Y.W.C.A. Dramatic Club (Northern Area).

The Howard de Walden Trophy will be presented to the successful team by the Rt. Hon. Oliver Stanley, P.C., M.P., President of the Board of Education.

EASTERN AREA.

The chief thing of interest in our entries this year seems to be the prevalence of comedy over the plays of gloom and horror which used to reach the Finals. This is specially noticeable in our Divisional and Area Finals. The standard of acting has been rather higher, and finance, although final figures are not yet available, much better than last year, three of the four Divisions showing a profit. The actual teams playing show a slight decrease on last years figures due in some measure to teams sending in their entries too late for arrangements to be made for them. Total number of entries 234./211 teams actually playing, 23 teams having scratched.

With the exception of the experiment of decentralising the Outer Section of the London Division, the centres elsewhere have been much the same as last year. Again we have experienced the difficulty of obtaining organisers, and, therefore, found it wiser to keep to the established centres where the organisation was sound.

"B" Division held Festivals at Boston, Downham Market, Woodbridge, Cambridge, Harpenden, Welwyn Garden City, Colchester and Sudbury.

It was disappointing that no Festival was possible at either Yarmouth or Norwich owing to lack of organisers. The Div. Final

was held at the Arts Theatre, Cambridge, instead of Welwyn, and proved a wise choice this Theatre being the ideal size for amateur productions. Much credit goes to the organisers of the Preliminary Festivals for their excellent results.

"C" Division. Festivals at Hastings, Croydon, Brighton, Tonbridge, Aldingbourne, Maidstone, Guildford and Folkestone. This Division had a larger number of original plays entered than formerly. The Div. Final was at Richmond Theatre.

"D" Division. The experiment of decentralising was entirely successful. The Central Section holding their Festivals at the Arts Theatre and St. Bride's Institute, and the Outer Section at Peckham, Notting Hill Gate, Lewisham, Loughton, Hounslow, Wembley, Westcliffe, Romford and Muswell Hill. Each Section sent two teams to the Div. Final, which was held at the Scala Theatre.

"E" Division. Festivals at Northampton, Kenton, Slough, Hillingdon, Beaconsfield, Kettering and Abingdon. After some efforts a Festival at Peterborough had to be abandoned. The Div. Final was at Abingdon, where the winner of the National Final last year was sent forward to the Eastern Area Final to be held at the Scala Theatre on May 3rd. Adjudicator, Mr. F. Sladen-Smith.

FLORENCE E. SMITH.

BRITISH DRAMA LEAGUE COMMUNITY THEATRE FESTIVAL

DIVISION "B."

The Augustans, Cambridge. "Edmund Kean," by A. Ramsey and R. de Cordova.
 **Barnet Arts Club. "One Evening at Nero's," by A. J. Talbot.
 Bedford D.C. "Cupid Rampant," by Percy Corry; "Unnatural Scene," by Kathleen Davey.
 Boston High School Old Girls' Association. "Symphony in Illusion," by James Wallace Bell.
 Boston Playgoers' Society. "A Florentine Tragedy," by Oscar Wilde; "The Pie and the Tart," by Hugh Chesterman.
 Cavendish W.I. "Prisoners' Base," by Marion Watson.
 Colchester Stage Society. "Heaven on Earth," by Philip Johnson.
 Connard Players. "The House with the Twisty Windows," by Mary Pakington; "Murder in the School Grounds," by C. E. J. Houghton.
 Cornard Group. "The Petrol Play," by Edgar Fleming.
 *Downham Market Extension Lecture Society (Dramatic Section). "They Went Forth," by H. F. Rubinstein.
 Harpenden Group of the B.D.L. "The Chimney Corner," by M. E. Atkinson; "Banns of Marriage," by Charles Lee; "Scapegoat," by Nora Ratcliffe.
 Holbeach W.I. "Number Ten," by Muriel and Sydney Box.
 Holbrook Players. "The Boy Harry," by Frank Collier; "Sherry Party," by Frank Collier.
 Houghton Hall Players, Cambridge. "Followers," by Harold Brighouse.
 Hunstanton Players. "The Lustre Jug," by Norah Kelly.
 Ipswich Guilders. "Get out of your Cage," by Mary Plowman.
 Ipswich Library Players. "Suffolk Dumplings," by F. J. Hamblin.
 Ipswich Women's Evening College. "The Storm," by John Drinkwater.
 King's Lynn O. and D.S. "Playgoers," by Arthur Pinero.
 King's Lynn Players. "Unknown Dimensions," by Harry Penson.
 Long Melford Choral Society. "Sunset at Baghdad," by F. Sladen-Smith.
 Mersea Island D.C. "The Distant Drum," by Philip Johnson; "Far, Far Away," by Philip Johnson.
 Mildenhall Singers and Players. "Right of Search," by Ian Hay.
 N.A.L.G.O. (Colchester Branch). "Thirst," by J. J. Bell.
 Nottingham University Extension Drama Class. "The Cradle Song," by G. & M. M. Sierra.
 Plumsgate D.S. "The Monkey's Paw," by W. W. Jacobs.
 Rodney D.C., Cambridge. "Waiter," by Sydney Box.
 **Solomon's Folly," By Sydney Box.
 Ruskington W.I. "A Meeting at Zoyland," by Hilda A. Fitch.
 Seckford Players, Woodbridge. "I cannot see what Flowers," by Dudley Symon; "The Cradle Song" (Act I.), by G. & M.M. Sierra.
 Spalding High School Old Girls' Association. "Be Sure your Sex will find you out," by Muriel and Sydney Box.
 Stowmarket O. & D.S. "Birds of Passage," by Hining Lenfranc.
 Sudbury D.S. "Five at the George," by Stuart Ready.

Walberswick Players. "One Evening at Nero's," by A. J. Talbot.

Welwyn Drama Club. "Heaven on Earth," by Philip Johnson; "Security," by Freda Pieteren; *A Florentine Tragedy," by Oscar Wilde.
 Welwyn Folk Players. "The Other Side," by Molly Jennings.

"C" DIVISION.

**Adventurers, Hove. "Swing Music," by Hall Palmer.
 Aldingbourne W.I. Scene from "Midsummer Night's Dream," by W. Shakespeare.
 Brencley D.C. "Heaven on Earth," by Philip Johnson.
 Burpham Village Players. "Fantasia in Air Street," by Mary Pakington.
 *Canterbury A.D.S. "Happy Death, Ltd.," by F. Sladen-Smith.
 Chaldon Players. "Short Story" Act III., by R. Morley.
 Chiddingfold A.D. (a). "For Better for Worse," by H. S. Green; (b) "Helping Hands," by Gertrude Jennings.
 Cowfold W.I. "The Victim," by Evan John.
 Dorking Townswomen's Guild. (a) "The Card Party," from "Cranford"; (b) "Elizabeth Refuses," by M. Macnamara.
 Ditton Players. "Like as Like," by Walter Knight.
 Eckington Players. "In a Glass Darkly," by Muriel Box.
 Eiffel Tower A.D.S. "The Willing Spirit," by Esther McCracken.
 Elmers Players. "White Queen, Red Queen," by T. B. Morris.
 Eythorne and Elvington A.D.S. "Here Comes the King," by Harry Penson.
 Faygate W.I. "Saturday Sensation," by Joan de Fraine.
 Felpham and Middleton W.I. "Women at War," by E. Percy.
 Forest Players. "The Fisherman," by George Graveley.
 Gravesend A.P. (a) "Back Stage," by Marjorie Shade; (b) "Top Floor Paradise," by Anthony Gale.
 Haslemere D.C. (a) "And She was a Widow," by Allen Chandler; (b) "The Sheep Shearing," adapted from "The Winter's Tale."
 Hastings Players. "A Girl for the Hall," by M. Nugent.
 *Heath Clark Old Students' D.C. "Yet I Ride the Little Horse," by Joan Temple.
 Hythe A.D.S. "Elizabeth Refuses," by Margaret Macnamara.
 Ightham W.I. "Little White Jumbo," by M. E. Atkinson.
 Kew Players. "Nell Cook," adapted from "Ingoldsby Legends," by Shelah White.
 Lewes Players. "Showing-up of Blanco Posnet," by G. B. Shaw.
 Maidstone D.S. "Murder Trial," by Sidney Box.
 Maidstone W.E.A. "The Dear Departing," by L. Andreyev, (trans. J. West.)
 Marlow Group, Bexhill. (a) "Lovely Miracle," by P. Johnson; (b) "The Apple Tree," by H. Brighouse.
 Maude Clarke Players. (a) "Strutham Amateurs Present," by Mabel Constanduros; (b) "Black Night," by John Bourne.
 Medway Theatre Club. "Dark Lady of the Sonnets," by G. B. Shaw.



COSTUME DESIGN BY DOROTHY WRIGHT
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SCENE FROM "HEWERS OF COAL" BY
JOE CORRIE, FESTIVAL PRODUCTION BY
THE NEW BATTLE BURNS CLUB DRAMATIC
SOCIETY. TO REPRESENT SCOTLAND AT
THE NATIONAL FINAL.

BRITISH DRAMA LEAGUE COMMUNITY THEATRE FESTIVAL

Merstham A.D.S. "Truth About Blayds," Act I, by A. A. Milne.
 Midhurst W.I. "Little Glass Houses," by P. Johnson and H. Agg.
 Minlake A.S. (a) "World Without Men," by Philip Johnson; (b) "The Ancestor Speaks," by George Calver.
 Mitre Theatre Club. (a) "By Judgment of the Court," by L. Pirandello; (b) "New Every Morning," by Rupert Sutton.
 New Romney A.D.S. "Happy Days" Act II, by W. Massey.
 Patrician Players. "One Evening at Nero's," by A. J. Talbot.
 Reculver W.I. "White Queen, Red Queen," by T. B. Morris.
 St. Peters' Players (Pembury). "Circumstantial Evidence," by George Grimaldi.
 Selsdon Players. (a) "Bread and Roses," by Joe Corrie; (b) "Bamboo," by L. Hines and F. King.
 Sidcup Evening Institute D.S. "Lucrezia Borgia's Little Party," by A. J. Talbot.
 Southwick Players. "Rizzio's Boots," by Hal Stewart.
 Stage Club, Beckenham. "Mr. Jones Dines Out," by Stuart Ready.
 *Surbiton High School Old Girls. "White Queen, Red Queen," by T. B. Morris.
 Teddington Theatre Club. "The Distant Drum," by Philip Johnson.
 *Thames Bank Players. "Pot Bound," by Lillian Smece.
 Tiffinian Musical and D.S. "Soul of Nicholas Snyders" Act I, by Jerome K. Jerome.
 Twickenham D.C. (a) "The Happy Family," by Frank Hallatt; (b) "Atlantis," by Frank Powell; (c) "One Evening at Nero's," by A. J. Talbot.
 West Horsley V.D.S. "Mrs. Biddlecombe and the Furriners," by S. Blow.
 West Malling D.S. "The Illusionist," by Philip Johnson.
 Woking Old Girls Association D.S. "Privy Council," by W. Drury and R. Price.

"D" DIVISION—(CENTRAL SECTION).

Admiralty D.S. "The Twelve Pound Look," by J. M. Barrie.
 **Blackfriars Society. "A Family Comedy (1840)" by M. Bowen.
 Brynmay D. & O.S. "The Tunnel," by B. Shaw.
 Fleetway Players. "The Record," by M. Miles.
 Forum Club A.D.G. "Anti-Clockwise," by M. & S. Box.
 Galere Club. "The Cat and the Moon," by W. B. Yeats.
 Guildhouse Players "A" Team. "That Fell Arrest," by L. Scott.
 Guildhouse Players "B" Team. "Getting Her On," by H. Leslie & J. Dymock.
 John Lewis Partnership D.S. "Windfall," by Neil Grant.
 King's College D.S. "Fours into Seven—won't go," by Val Gielgud & S. King-Hall.
 Lloyds Bank D. & O.S. "Ebb Tide," by Robert Lambert.
 Lyons Club (Cadby Hall). "Who Killed Me?" by L. Chantel.
 Marsham Street Players. "Mystery Cottage," by B. Merivale.

*Midland Bank D.S. "Where the Cross is Made," by Eugene O'Neill.
 New Players. "Theft by Finding," by M. R. Krever.
 Passengers. "The Happy Journey to Trenton and Camden," by T. Wilder.
 R.I.B.A. D.S. "Happy Death, Ltd.," by F. Sladen-Smith.
 Ripman D.S. Scenes adapted from "Children in Uniform," by C. Winslow.
 St. Bride D.S. "Down our Street," (Act I), by E. George.
 Trevescan A.D.C. "The Lovely Miracle," by Philip Johnson.
 War Office D.S. "Donald Dirk Goes A-wooing," by J. McEwan.

"D" DIVISION—(OUTER SECTION).

Acorn Club. "Master of the House," by Stanley Houghton.
 Augusta-John Players. "O! to be in England" by Ruth Flint.
 Battersea (Co-op.) Group. "Created He Them," by C. Bacon.
 Bayswater Players. "The Lost Hat," by E. Percy.
 Belvedere (Co-op.) Group. "Husbands Supplied," by F. L. Cary.
 Benfleet D.S. "Major Barbara" (Act 2), by G. Bernard Shaw.
 Buskin Players. "Me and Me Roses," by H. C. Voller.
 Carlton D.S. "Shall we join the Ladies," by J. M. Barrie.
 Catford (Co-op.) Group. "Black Night," by John Bourne.
 Chester Players. "Endymion" original play by the Chester Players.
 Company of Players. "Trifles," by Susan Glaspell.
 Croydon (Co-op.) Group—"A" Team. "Man born to be Hanged," by R. Hughes.
 Croydon (Co-op.) Group—"B" Team. "Nine till Six" (Act 3), by A. & P. Stuart.
 Epping W.I.D.S. "Number Ten," by M. & S. Box.
 Grangewood Players. "Will Shakespeare" (Act 2, Scene 1), by Clemence Dane.
 Grays A.T.S. "Private Secretary," by Charles Hawtrey.
 Hammersmith (Co-op) D.G. "Silver Bullet," by Helen de Zglinitzki.
 Harold Wood W.I.D.S. "The Only Legend," by John Drinkwater.
 Hatcham Players. "The Illusionist," by Philip Johnson.
 Hestrians. "Saturday Night," by Philip Johnson.
 Kerwin Players, "A" Team. "Her Affairs in Order," by N. Gage Bolton.
 Kerwin Players, "B" Team. "The Little Stone House," by G. Calderon.
 King Alfred Players. "Derelict," by Philip Johnson.
 Latymer Players. "Happy Death, Ltd.," by F. Sladen-Smith.
 *Loughton A.D.S. "Long Christmas Dinner," by T. Wilder.
 Mereleigh Players. "Five at the George," by Stuart Ready.
 Metropolitan Academy of Music (Ilford Branch) D.S. "Unknown Dimension," by H. Penson.
 Muswell Hill D.S. "Circumstantial Evidence," by G. H. Grimaldi.
 New Century Players. "Trifles," by Susan Glaspell.

BRITISH DRAMA LEAGUE COMMUNITY THEATRE FESTIVAL

- New Cross (Co-op.) Group. "Lady with the Lamp" (Act 2., Scene 2.), by R. Berkeley.
- New Eltham Players, "A" Team. "For Each Man Kills," by M. Thorne.
- New Eltham Players, "B" Team. "Shall we join the Ladies," by J. M. Barrie.
- New Malden (Co-op.) Group. "Man from Toronto" (Act 1), by D. Murray.
- Old Brondesburians. "Black Night," by John Bourne.
- Past and Present Players. "Night Must Fall," (Act 1), by E. Williams.
- Peckham & Honor Oak O.S.D.S. "The Charlady and the Angel," by H. Shipp.
- *Questors. Scenes adapted from "Twelfth Night," by W. Shakespeare.
- Richidan Players. "Trifles," by Susan Glaspell.
- Romford N.U.T.D.S. "The Pacifist," by O. Popplewell.
- St. Edwards D.S. "The Flaw," by Cyril Roberts.
- St. Peters D.S. "The Boy Comes Home," by A. A. Milne.
- Selti D.S. "St. Joan" (Scene 1), by G. Bernard Shaw.
- Shooters Hill (Co-op.) Group. "Villa for Sale," by Sacha Guitry.
- Shornells (Co-op.) Group. "Murder Trial," by Sidney Box.
- Stanley Gardens D.S. Scenes from "King Lear," by W. Shakespeare.
- Theydon Bois V.D.C. "The Will," by J. M. Barrie.
- Tooting (Co-op.) Group. "Major Barbara" (Act 2), by G. Bernard Shaw.
- Welling (Co-op.) Group. "More things in Heaven," by C. Granger.
- Wembley Park F.C.D.S. "Dream Faces," by Wynn Miller.
- Wembley W.I.D.S. "Men are Missing," by M. Rayne.
- West London Players, "A" Team. "Love and Uncle Henry," by E. F. Parr.
- West London Players, "B" Team. "Odds all Even," by N. Leven.
- Worcester Park D.G. "Solomon's Folly," by Sidney Box.
- Hillside Players. "White Queen, Red Queen," by T. B. Morris.
- Horlick's D.S. "Hassan," by James Elroy Flecker.
- Hospital Players. "Salve Festa Dies," by P. A. M. Long.
- Hygram Players. "Joint Owners in Spain," by Alice Brown.
- Jordan Players. "Mr. Sampson," by Charles Lee.
- Kenton O. & D.S. "In Port," by Harold Simpson.
- Kingsbury D.S. "Escape," by E. F. Parr.
- Mrs. J. C. S. Musk's Repertory Company. "End and Beginning," by John Masefield.
- Northampton Catholic D.S. "The Friends of Valerie Lane," by Dolland Parsons.
- *Northampton Federation of W.I.'s. "Anti-Clockwise," by Muriel and Sidney Box.
- Old Lyonians D.C. "Philip the King," by John Masefield.
- Old Uxonians D.C. "The Invisible Duke," by F. Sladen-Smith.
- Pinner Townswomen's Guild D.S. "Women at War," by Edward Percy.
- *Players Club, Beaconsfield. "The Man who Married a Dumb Wife," by Anatole France.
- Richings Players. "After the Event," by Hugh Ross Williamson.
- Richings Players. "Food for Thought," by Muriel Cassidy and Peter Cooke.
- St. Martin's Players. "Food for Thought," by Muriel Cassidy and Peter Cooke.
- Slough Y.M.C.A. D.S. "Lion Rampant," by John C. Gage.
- Southall Holy Trinity Fellowship D.C. "Father Noah," by Geoffrey Whitworth.
- Upton Players. "The Last Rib," by Cyril Roberts.
- Wellingborough Co-Operative D.S. "The Willing Spirit," by Esther McCracken.
- Wolverton Technical College D.S. "The Sister's Tragedy," by Richard Hughes.
- Wytham Village Players. "Deceivers All," by Hope Ffennell.

WESTERN AREA.

The Western Area is able to on the whole to look back on a very successful year's work; but in one respect, that of the number of entries, there has been one of those slight and inexplicable set-backs that occur sometimes in this kind of enterprise. Each of the five Divisions shows a reduction on last year, but the reasons are different in every case, and there is certainly no diminution in general interest; so there is no reason to suspect an epidemic (apart from that of influenza, which, coming just at the Festival's critical period, did have a very noticeable effect), or to doubt that next year will give us back all the ground we have lost, and more.

During the Summer the Area Committee issued a code of regulations for the conduct of Festival performances, which has proved

"E" DIVISION.

- *Art School Players, Oxford. "Shall we Join the Ladies?" by James Barrie.
- Beaconsfield Townswomen's Guild D.C. "Godstow Nunnery," by Laurence Binyon.
- Charity Players. "In Cold Blood," by Gordon Bligh.
- Charity Players. "The Ghost Train," by Arnold Ridley.
- Chiltern Club of Arts. "Paris and C'enone," by Laurence Binyon.
- Geddington & Newton W.I.D.S. "The Bride," by Gertrude Jennings.
- Gerrard's Cross Players. "Thy Name is Woman," by John Bourne.
- Good Companions D.C. "Pygmalion," by G. B. Shaw.
- **Guild of Abbey Players. "The Mock Doctor," by Henry Fielding.
- Hamtune Players. "The Man Born to be Hanged," by Richard Hughes.
- Harrow Congregational Church Players. "The Distant Drum," by Philip Johnson.
- Hatch End Players. "The Friends of Valerie Lane," by Dolland Parsons.

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valuable for obtaining greater uniformity of practice, and it is intended to develop this process by the standardisation of entry forms and other documents frequently used in Festival organisation.

The Eastern Division continued to operate in two groups centred at Coventry and Leicester; these are now numerically equal, for while the comparatively new Coventry group is flourishing, there was an unexpected diminution in the entries at Leicester. The two preliminary groups were adjudicated by Mr. Robert Mitchell, and the Final, in which four teams appeared, by Mr. Robert Newton.

The small drop of entries in the Midland Division is accounted for by the temporary absence of the Wolverhampton Group, which is unlikely to continue. It may be observed that one well-known Wolverhampton team entered through another group, and reached the Divisional Final. The two groups established last year, at Walsall and Worcester, were again most successful; there was the usual large entry at Hereford; and twenty Festival entrants appeared in the joint festival at Birmingham, which had a total entry of 25. Owing to the large number of entries two preliminary adjudicators were employed for the first time, namely Mr. Neil Porter and Mr. Jack Carlton; Mr. Martin Browne adjudicated the Final, of six teams.

In the Central Division most of the outlying groups showed their usual activity, and the falling-off in Bristol itself was due almost entirely to the defection, for purely domestic reasons, of one or two of the most regular entrants. The successful promotion of a festival in Bath, where for several years difficulties of venue have impeded progress, was a great step forward. On the other hand, the Swindon festival had to be abandoned this year; but it is hoped in future to obtain the co-operation of the rural organisation in Wilts.; the Rural Community Councils of Gloucester and Somerset remain a great strength to the Division. The Division was exceptionally lucky on its adjudicators—Mr. Sladen-Smith for the preliminary round, Mr. Martin Browne for the Final, which comprised eight teams.

The Southern Division had 15 entries, 6 of which had to withdraw, mostly because of influenza. The hopes of a preliminary festival at Swanage were unfortunately not realised, but there is every chance of one being held

there next year. A proposal was also made for a group at Southampton, but at the time this proved impossible; so preliminary Festivals were held at Lymington and Bournemouth. The Divisional Final held at Petersfield broke quite new ground, and being the first Festival in the district created great interest. The success of the Final reflected great credit on the organiser, Mrs. Chater, who, it is hoped, will promote a preliminary group there next year. Four teams appeared before Dr. Howieson Culf; the preliminary adjudicator was Mr. G. C. H. Stevens.

The entries in the Western Division unfortunately fell to 21, of which five withdrew—largely owing to influenza, as elsewhere. Grouping was difficult owing to lack of representation from Exeter and district (there was only one entry from Exeter, which had to withdraw), so the only preliminary festivals were at St. Ives (one performance) and at Plymouth (three evenings). These were adjudicated by Mrs. Olive Errock. The Divisional Final, comprising six teams, was held in Plymouth and adjudicated by Mr. Martin Browne. The drop in entries was not accompanied by any diminution of general interest, for attendances at both stages of the Festival were well up to the average.

For the first time, the Area Final will be held this year in the centre of the Area, at Bristol, and (also for the first time) it is possible to provide a Saturday evening performance. Mr. B. Iden Payne adjudicates at the Victoria Rooms, Clifton, Bristol, on May 1st.

EASTERN DIVISION.

Coventry Group.

- Courtaulds (Coventry) A.D.S. "Superstition," by M. Helen-Stringer.
- *Keresley Newlands W.I. "A False Note," by C. F. Glover.
- St. George's Players. "The Charlady and the Angel," by Horace Shipp.
- *Coventry Co-operative A.D.S. "There is no Return," by Eric Bradwell.
- Coventry Players. "The Mother of Judas," by H. de Zglinitzki.
- Magnet Players. "The Master of the House," by Stanley Houghton.
- Coventry Y.M.C.A. D.S. "Fantasia in Air Street," by Mary Pakington.

Leicester Group.

- Leicester City Police D.S. "The Farce of the Worthy Master Peter Patelin (trans. from the French, circa 1400).

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****Vaughan Players.** ***"The Hour Glass," by W. B. Yeats; "The Insect Play" (Act II), by the Brothers Kapek; "One Evening at Nero's," by A. J. Talbot.
***Wycliffe Players.** "Moloch" (Act I), by Winifred Carter.
Costerworth D.A. Players. "Original Iron," by C. B. Bailey.
Clarendon Park D.S. "Herod" (Act II), by Stephen Phillips.

MIDLAND DIVISION. Birmingham Group.

Old Yardleians D.S. "Saturday Night," by Philip Johnson.
Birmingham Thespians. "The Shadow of a Queen," by T. B. Morris; "Budge, Budge Not," by N. K. Smith.
English Needle and Fishing Tackle Co. D.S. "A Cup of Tea," by F. Ryerson.
The Venturers. "Opportunity," by R. J. MacGregor.
Birmingham and Midland Institute Shakespeare and Dramatic Society. "All his Desire," by Gladys Joiner.
Camp Hill Old Edwardians. "The Distant Drum," by Philip Johnson.
Somerset Road Methodist Church A.D.S. "Calling the Tune," by Leonard J. Hines and Frank King.
Highbury Players. "The Bear," by Tchekov; "Foiling the Reds," by "Yaffie."
Mitchells and Butlers D.S. "Exit," by Cyril Roberts.
Perrystanding Community Players. "The Devil Was Sick," by Neil Grant.
Lucas D.S. "Hildegard" (Act II. of "Potters' Clay"), by Gordon Lea.
Society of One-Act Players. "Arising out of the Minutes," by Louise Regnis.
Tamworth Dramatic Arts Club. "Jane Wogan," by Florence Howell.
***Birmingham Girls' Old Edwardian Club (Dramatic Section).** "Angels of War" (Act I.), by Muriel Box.
Birmingham "Taxes" A.D.S. "Puck's Good Deed for the Day," by John Bourne.
King's Heath Players. "The Deacon and the Jewess," by H. F. Rubinstein; "Thread o' Scarlet," by J. J. Bell.
Birmingham Insurance Institute D.S. "Tarakin," by Francis Mark.

Hereford Group.

Munsley W.I. "Taking the Chair," by A. L. Jackson.
Bishopswood W.I. "Neighbours of Gooseberry Court," by Francis M. Petty.
Bredwardine and Brobery W.I. "Sanctuary," by Phoebe Rees.
Tupsley W.I. "Women at War," by Edward Percy.
Greystone Players. "At Monk's Close," by Miriam Pritchett.
Hereford Y.M.C.A. D.S. "Black Night," by John Bourne; "Twentieth Century Lullaby," by Cedric Mount.
Ledbury Players. "Shivering Shocks," by Clemence Dane; "Red Queen, White Queen," by T. B. Morris.
Welsh Newton D.C. "Much Merle," by Miriam Pritchett.
Huntingdon and Kington W.I.'s "Appros," by Miriam Pritchett.
Huntington (Hereford) W.I. "Little Glass Houses," by Philip Johnson.

Huntington (Kington) Players. "Sanctuary," by Phoebe Rees.
Eastnor and District W.I. "The Flood," by M. Jenkinson.
Eastnor W.I. "Honest Folk," by F. Austin Hyde.
Eastnor Players. "Captain Cook and the Widow," by Stuart Ready.
***Hereford Community Players.** "They Went Forth," by H. F. Rubinstein.
Weston-under-Penyard W.I. "The Chimney Corner," by M. E. Atkinson.
Eardisland W.I. "Godstow Nunnery," by Laurence Binyon.
Buckholt Players. "Five Birds in a Cage," by Gertrude Jennings.
Withington Players. "Come Away Death," by Dorothy Carr.

Worcester Group.

Co-operative D.S. "The Barretts of Wimpole Street" (Act I.), by Rudolf Besier; "The Girl in the Coffin," by Theodore Dreiser.
***Harkaway Players.** "Doctor—My Book," by R. de Cordova and A. Ramsey; "Saturday Sensation," by Joan de Fraine.
St. Martin's D.S. "The Turtle Dove," by Margaret Scott Oliver.
Worcester College for the Blind D.S. "Androcles and the Lion," by G. Bernard Shaw.
Malvern Wells Players. "The Red Tie," by Olive Poplewell.
***St. Mary's Reading Circle.** "Number Ten," by Muriel and Sydney Box.
Droitwich A.D.S. "The House with the Twisty Windows," by Mary Pakington.
Worcester Youth Group (League of Nations Union). "The Dragon's Teeth" (Act II.), by Shirland Quin.

Walsall Group.

Co-operative Players. "The Grand Cham's Diamond," by Allan Monkhouse.
***St. Luke's D.S.** "The Dumb Wife of Cheapside," by Ashley Dukes.
Bloxwich Players. "Mrs. Waterbury's Millennium," by James Bridie.
Spencer Players. "The Silver Bullet," by H. de Zglinitzki.

Shrewsbury Group.

****Shrewsbury A.D.S.** "The Corridors of the Soul," by N. N. Evreinov.
East Hamlet D.S. (Shropshire Drama League). "White Queen, Red Queen," by T. B. Morris.
Oldbury W.I. (Shropshire Drama League). "Elizabeth Refuses," by M. Macnamara.
Priory Old Girls' Association. "Far, Far Away," by Philip Johnson.

CENTRAL DIVISION.

Somerset Rural Community Council.
Over Stowey Players, W.I. "Double Dealing," by W. W. Jacobs.
***Street Players.** "Exit," by Cyril Roberts.
Nettlecombe Players. "The Lost Hat," by Edward Percy.
Barrow Gurney Players. "The Vision at the Inn," by Susan Buchan.

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Wookey Play Actors. "A Dose of Physic," by Margaret Cropper.

Gloucestershire Rural Community Council.

*Minchinhampton D.S. "The Road of Poplars," by Vernon Sylvaine.

Painswick Players. Extracts from "Macbeth," by Shakespeare.

Longhope D.S. "Trifles," by Susan Glaspell.

Chipping Campden D.S. "S. O. S.," by N. Leven.

Deancroft Players. "Birds of a Feather," by J. O. Francis.

Sheepscombe D.S. "Women Will Gossip," by C. M. A. Peake.

Edge. "The Lost Hat," by Edward Percy.

Bath Group.

*Bath Co-operative Players. "Twentieth Century Lullaby," by Cedric Mount.

The Holman Group, Frome. "Not What They Seem," by Vernon Sylvaine; "A Bite of the Apple," by Vernon Sylvaine.

Marlborough A.O. & D.S. "Villa for Sale," by Sacha Guitry.

Taunton Group.

*Hartly Hodder Players. * "The Distant Drum," by Philip Johnson; "I made you Possible," by Ivor Brown.

*Taunton Thespians. ** "A School for Coquettes," by H. Palgrave Simpson; "A Room in the Tower," by Hugh Stewart.

Red Triangle Players, Bridgewater. "Heaven on Earth," by Philip Johnson.

Nettlecombe Players. "Paradise," by Phoebe Rees.

Bristol Group.

Kelvin Players. "Black Night," by John Bourne.

*Salisbury A.D.S. "The Friends of Valerie Lane," by Dolland Parsons.

Bristol Corporation Electricity Dept. D.S. "Doctor—My Book," by R. de Cordova and A. Ramsey.

Marlborough A.O. & D.S. Scenes from "Escape," by John Galsworthy.

*Clifton Arts Club. ** "Wings over Hampstead," by Cyril Roberts; "Bright Star," by Cyril Roberts; "We Got Rhythm," by Nora Ratcliff.

**Bristol Drama Club. "The White Flame," by Edward Purchase.

SOUTHERN DIVISION.

Boscombe Players. "World Without Men," by Philip Johnson; "The Illusionist," by Philip Johnson.

Weymouth D.C. "Anti-Clockwise," by Muriel and Sydney Box.

**Southampton Repertory Playgoers Association. "The Baseless Fabric," by Norah K. Turner.

*Abbotts Ann W.I. "Michael," by Miles Malleston.

New Milton W.I. "Idols," by Phoebe Rees.

*Citizen Players of Portsmouth. "The Rose Without a Thorn" (Act II.), by Clifford Bax.

Everton & Hordle V.D.S. "Fancy Dress," by Bernard Merrivale.

*Sheet W.I. "The Black Horseman," by Mary Pakington.

WESTERN DIVISION.

St. Ives Group.

Hayle Players. "The Glimpse of Reality," by G. Bernard Shaw.

St. Ives D.S. "Villa For Sale," by Sacha Guitry; "The Coiner," by Bernard Duffy.

*St. Ives Arts Club. "The Deathless World," by J. M. S. Tompkins.

Plymouth Group.

Devonport High School A.D.S. "The Old Bull," by Bernard Gilbert.

*Launceston A.O. & D.S. "Shall we Join the Ladies?" by J. M. Barrie.

Plymouth Co-operative Players. "Love and Uncle Henry," by H. Penson; "Five at the George," by Stuart Ready.

*Plymouth Arts Club. "White Queen, Red Queen," by T. B. Morris.

Plymouth Shakespeare Society. "The Merchant of Venice" (Act IV., Scene I.), by Shakespeare; "The Lovely Miracle," by Philip Johnson.

*Dartmouth Players. "Family Album," by Noel Coward.

The Tamaritans. * "The Trollop's Triumph," by Irene Hall; "Men are Missing," by Michael Rayne.

Kelly D.S. "Legend," by Philip Johnson.

Swarthmore Players. "I have Five Daughters" (Act II., Scene 2), by Margaret Macnamara.

NORTHERN AREA.

The total number of entries in the Northern Area was 195 as against 238 last year. The falling off is confined to the West Riding of Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, and Derbyshire, where the R.C.C. ran a non-competitive Festival, leaving the urban teams the privilege of competing for promotion. For reasons not immediately apparent, difficulties were experienced in the West Riding in fitting in dates, and the usual six or seven Festivals on successive evenings gave place to three, one in Ripon, followed by two in Bradford a fortnight later. On Merseyside it was not possible to use the David Lewis Theatre for the usual dates, and the Festivals were held earlier than in previous years, which doubtless accounts in some measure for the reduction in entries. East Lancashire suffered through the unavoidable resignation of the Secretary, Mr. Wemyss, and valuable weeks were lost before a successor was secured in Miss Madge Taylor, who struggled energetically to rescue an almost hopeless position.

In all other parts of the Area entries were well maintained, so that there is no evidence of any falling off in interest. The general

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standard of performance has at least equalled, if not exceeded, that of previous years.

We have been particularly fortunate with our Adjudicators, who have given general satisfaction, both to teams and audiences. It appears that the problem of eliminating misunderstandings and providing a uniform and constructive type of adjudication is well on the way to being solved.

The East Riding and Lindsey Division followed the new scheme of organisation by Counties, and split into three, North Riding, East Riding and Lindsey, and the change was found advantageous.

In the two Lancashire and Cheshire County Divisions the Festivals were conducted by special sub-committees, being substantially the Divisional Committees which have organised them in previous years. In all other cases the County Committees organised the Festivals themselves. This has the great advantage that the Area Committee, by co-opting representatives from the Lancashire and Cheshire Festival Sub-Committee is able to control the Festival directly, instead of delegating the task to an Area Festival Sub-Committee.

Northern Group.

CUMBERLAND DIVISION.

- Whitehaven Players. "And now—the Journey," by Conrad G. Carter.
- Maryport W.E.A. Players. "White Queen, Red Queen," by T. B. Morris.
- Caldbeck Drama Group. "Trifles," by Susan Glaspell.
- Brampton Players. "Heaven on Earth," by Philip Johnson.
- Scotsby Womens' Institute. "April Showers," by Philip Johnson.
- *Cockermouth W.E.A. "The Valiant," by Houldsworth Hall and Robert Middlemas.
- Brampton Players. "Barbara's Wedding," by J. M. Barrie.

North Western Division.

- Students' Dramatic Club. "In a Glass Darkly," by Muriel Box.
- Labour Club D.S. "The Wheelin' Widder," by Joseph Stamper.
- Dalton Players. "And now—the Journey," by Conrad G. Carter.
- Grange Evening Classes Finalist. "World without Men," by Philip Johnson.
- Co-operative D.S. "Odds All Even," by Norman Leven.
- Barrow A.D.S. "Murder Trial," by Sydney Box.
- The Outsiders A.D.S. "Deidre," by W. B. Yeats.

- The Abbey Players. "The End of Courage," by T. B. Morris.
- Barrow W.E.A. Players. "Official Announcement," by Eleanor Elder.
- Ambleside Players. "The Sister who Walked in Silence," by Philip Johnson.
- Labour Club D.S. "Seven Women," by J. M. Barrie.
- Torver D.S. "The Cat among the Pigeons," by Herbert Ingham.
- Foxfield Women's Institute. "Sing a Song of Sixpence," by Sydney and Muriel Box.

NORTH EASTERN DIVISION.

- Hodgkin House Players. "The Master of the House," by Stanley Houghton.
- Gateshead Y.W.C.A. "Joint Owners in Spain," by Alice Brown.
- Murton Community Players. "Jonah," by Cedric Mount.
- *Durham Dramatic Society, "A" Team. "Derelict," by Philip Johnson.
- Dunelm Players. "Thursday Afternoon," by Alfred Bates.
- Fisher House Players. "Mrs. Clark's Tea Party," by Agnes Johnson.
- The Progressive Players. "Invasion," by Horace Tripp.
- **Newcastle Y.W.C.A. "A" Team. "The Willing Spirit," by Esther McCracken.
- Pentland Robson Dramatic School. "The Infernal Birthday," by N. K. Smith.
- *Westovian Players. "Drums of Oude," by Austin Strong.
- Rock House Players. "A Tale of Two Cities" Act I, by Eric S. Barber.
- Alnmouth Players. "The Blue Suit," by E. A. Bryan.
- Sunderland Drama Club. "White Queen, Red Queen," by T. B. Morris.
- Northumberland House Players. "Official Announcement," by Eleanor M. Elder.
- High Heaton Tenants Association, "B" Team. "The Poison Party," by F. Sladen-Smith.
- Waterhouses Guild of Players. "The Friends of Valerie Lane," by Dolland Parsons.
- Durham Dramatic Society, "B" Team. "Much Ado About Nothing," by Shakespeare.
- The Jewish Players.
- The Phoenix Players. "Black Night," by John Bourne.
- Newcastle Y.W.C.A., "B" Team. "Behind the Lace Curtains," by Esther McCracken.
- *Pentland Robson Dramatic School. "Deidre," by W. B. Yeats.

Eastern Group.

NORTH RIDING DIVISION.

- Ormesby Players. "The Great Dark," by D. Totheroh.
- Hutton Rudby Dramatic Society. "Women at War," by E. Percy.
- *Yarm Community Centre. "Safe Custody," by F. A. Hyde.
- Middlesborough Drama Group, "A". "A Tale of Two Cities" (Act I), by Charles Dickens.
- Middlesborough Drama Group, "B". "Thereby Hangs a Tail," by Girvin Cosens.
- *Middlesborough Drama Group, "C". "A Room in the Tower," by Hugh Stewart.

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Middlesborough Drama Group, "D." "Godstow Nunnery," by L. Binyon.
 Middlesborough Settlement Players. "The Willing Spirit," by Esther McCracken.
 Redcar Dramatic Circle. "Villa for Sale," by Sacha Guitry.
 Yarm Community Players (Winners of preliminary round at Hutton Rudby).
 *Pickering Women's Institute. "The Great Dark," by D. Totheroh.
 Rillington Women's Institute. "Vitamin X," by Barbara Dickson.
 Rosedale Abbey Women's Institute. "A Girl for the Hall," by M. Nugent.
 North Grimston & Birdsall Players. "Checkmate," by A. Halliday.
 East and West Ayton Women's Institute. "A." "Diana of Dobsons" (Act I), by Cosmo Hamilton.
 East and West Ayton Women's Institute, "B." "A Village School for Scandal," by
 Christ Church Dramatic Society. "In a Glass Darkly" by Hugh Ross Williamson.
 *Scarborough Thespians. "One Evening at Nero's," by A. J. Talbot.
 Scarborough Amateur Drama & Comedy Players. "The Eye of the Beholder," by Cyril Grainger.
 Birdsall Players. "The Ship Comes In," by F. A. Hyde.
 Teams, A., B., & C., from the Crayke Drama Group.
 *The Knight's Errant. "Happy Family," by Carruthers

West Riding.

Oakdale D.S. "Comfortable Like," by Wylbert R. Kemp.
 Pateley Bridge D.S. "Campbell of Kilmohr," by J. A. Ferguson.
 Ripon W.I. Players. "Not Guilty, My Lord," by Muriel Smith.
 Summerbridge Players. "Heaven on Earth," by Philip Johnson.
 The Q.E.D. Players. "The Judgement of the Dead," by Herbert Lyn Wright.
 Bingley W.E.A. Drama Guild. "Squaring the Circle" Act I., by Valentin Katrev.
 Sutton in Craven W.E.A. Players. "Calling the Tune" by Leonard J. Hines and Frank King.
 *Montague Burton Players. "Sophro the Wise," by Laurence Binyon.
 The B.G.G.S. Players. "The Language of Love," by Edward Percy.
 The Pottery Field Players. Mechanical scenes from "Midsummer Night's Dream," by William Skakkepeare.
 The Romany Players. "The Romany Road," by Harold Brighouse.
 Gargrave Dramatic Society. "The Great Dark," by Dan Totheroh.

East Riding.

Burton Agnes Drama Group. "Sanctuary," by Phoebe M. Rees.
 Preston Women's Institute. "Symphony in Illusion," by James Wallace Bell.
 Shiptonthorpe Women's Institute. "The Fat Kine and the Lean," by Gilbert Cannan.
 Market Weighton A.D.S. (A). "Wayside War," by Margaret Napier.
 Market Weighton A.D.S. (B). "A New School for Scandal" (scenes from), by Anon.

Holme Players. "To-day of all Days," by Philip Johnson.
 Wressle Drama Class. "The Great Dark," by Dan Totheroh.
 Melbourne Drama Class (A). "The Maid of Domremy," by Joe Corrie.
 Melbourne Drama Class (B). "The Apple Tree," by Harold Brighouse.
 Sutton-on-Derwent Drama Group (A). "Noah" (a scene from), by Andre Obey.
 Sutton-on-Derwent Drama Group (B). "The Wager," by Everan M. Burrell.
 Garrett Players Society. "The Flaw," by Cyril Roberts.
 Hull C.H.A. Club Dramatic Circle. "Minick" (scene from), by George S. Kaufman and Edna Ferber.
 Hull Electricity Recreation Club Drama Section. "The Witch" (Act I) by Hans Wiers-Jensen—John Masfield.
 Park Street Institute Dramatic Circle. "The Return of John Farnley," by Emily Holmes Lowery.
 Sharrah Drama Club. "The First and the Last," by John Galsworthy.
 New Earswick D. & O.S. "Punch and Go," by John Galsworthy.
 Terry's A.D.S. "The Brontes," by Alfred Sangster.

Lindsey.

Keady Dramatic Group. "Heaven on Earth," by Philip Johnson.
 *Haxey Dramatic Society. "I Saw a Star," by Bernard Merivale.
 Haxey Dramatic Society. "World Without Men," by Philip Johnson.
 Lindsey Players. "A Privy Council," by W. P. Drury and R. Pryce.
 North Kelsey Dramatic Group. "Women at War," by Edward Percy.
 Caistor Dramatic Society. "Third Time Lucky," by Arnold Ridley.
 *Cleethorpes Amateur Dramatic Society. "The Flaw," by Cyril Roberts.
 North Kelsey Dramatic Group. "Neighbourly Love," by F. A. Carter.
 *Lincoln High School O.G.A. "White Queen, Red Queen," by T. B. Morris.
 Waddingham Dramatic Society. "Tilly of Bloomsbury" Act II., by Ian Hay.
 Newland Amateur Dramatic Society (Lincoln). "Come Away Death," by Dorothy Carr.
 Brigg Dramatic Group. "Godstow Nunnery," by Laurence Binyon.
 Alford Amateur Dramatic Society. "Thread o' Scarlet," by J. J. Bell.
 Sibsey Women's Institute. "Husbands Supplied," by F. L. Cary.
 Skegness Players. "A Cup of Kindness," by Ben Travers.
 *Skegness Drama Group. "The Dark Lady of the Sonnets," by G. B. Shaw.
 Laceby Drama Group. "Far, Far Away," by Philip Johnson.
 **Louth Playgoers. "The Land of Heart's Desire," by W. B. Yeats.
 Laceby Drama Group. "When the Whirlwind Blows," by Essex Dane.
 The Humbersonians. "The Second Visit," by John Bourne.

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Grimoldby Women's Institute. "A Changing World," by H. L. Parr.
 Healing Players. "A Room in the Tower," by Hugh Stewart.
 Grainthorpe Amateur Dramatic Society. "Ali the Cobbler," by Martin Sheppherd.
 *Kedlington and Louth Park Women's Institute. "Far, Far Away," by Philip Johnson.
 Healing Players. "Husbands Supplied," by F. L. Cary

SOUTHERN GROUP.

Notts. R.C.C.
 Beeston Fields Evening Institute. "The Language of Love," by Edward Percy.
 Elston Players. "Wayside War," by Margaret Napier.
 Misterton Players. "A Privy Council," by W. P. Drury and R. Pryce.
 *Misterton Players. "Towie Castle," by Gordon Bottomley.

Nottingham City.

Nottingham Amateur Players. "The Traitor," by Percival Wilde.
 Pageant Players. "Ladies in Waiting," by Wendy St. John Moule.
 Deasmond Green Players. "Old Man Year," by Gwladys Duke.
 Nottingham Playgoers' Club. "Afternoon," by Philip Johnson.
 Desmond Greene Players. "The Black Mask," by Peggy Chambers.
 Pageant Players. "And so to War," by Joe Corrie.
 Pageant Players. "Wayside War," by Margaret Napier.
 Nottingham Association Unemployed Workers D.S. "In the Zone," by Eugene O'Neill.
 Pageant Players. "Villa for Sale," by Sacha Guitry.
 **Nottingham A.D.C. "One Evening at Nero's," by A. J. Talbot.
 Pageant Players. "Love and Uncle Henry," by H. Penson.
 St. Mary's A.D.S. "Terminus," by S. Corelly Smith.
 Phoenix Players. "A Bow to Lotta," by Percival Wilde.
 Nottingham Amateur Players. "The School for Scandal" (Screen Scene), by R. B. Sheridan.
 Desmond Greene Players. "Memoirs," by Philip Johnson.
 The Robin Hood Players. "Unknown Dimensions," by H. Penson.

Derbyshire.

Little Easton W.I. "The Hour Glass," by W. B. Yeats.
 The Mystrionics. "Arising out of the Minutes," by Louise Regnis.
 *The Community House Players. "A Voice Said 'Goodnight'," by Roland Pertwee.
 The Old Bemrosian D.S. "The Distant Drum," by Philip Johnson.
 Buxton Branch of B.D.I. "Fantasia in Air Street," by Mary Pakington; "Derelict," by Philip Johnson.
 *The Settlement Players. "Safe Custody," by Austin F. Hyde.
 The Chesterfield People's Service Club. "In the Zone," by Eugene O'Neill.
 The Chesterfield Playgoers' Society. "One Evening at Nero's," by A. J. Talbot; "The Distant Drum," by Philip Johnson.

The Settlement Players. "Romance Comes to Cooper Street," by Ella Adkins.
 The Clay Cross Social Service Centre. "O.H.M.S.," by Ronald Gow.

Sheffield.

The Swan Players. "T' Second Time of Asking," by George Taylor.
 The Vernon Players. "Ebb Tide," by Robert Lambert.
 *The Sheffield Playgoers' Society. "The King of Spain's Daughter," by Teresa Deevy.
 The Rotherham Playgoers. "Five at the 'George'," by Stuart Ready.
 Hillsborough Boys' Club. "The Invisible Duke," by F. Sladen-Smith.
 Sheffield University Union D.S. "Solomon's Folly," by Sidney Box.
 Old Crescenters' D.S. "We Got Rhythm," by Nora Ratcliff.
 The Swan Players. "The Mousetrap," by J. Darmady.

WESTERN GROUP.

East Lancashire and Cheshire.

Saddleworth Players. "The Sisters' Tragedy," by Richard Hughes; "Twentieth Century Lullaby," by Cedric Mount.
 St. Augustine's A.D.S. "Send Her Victorious," by Philip Johnson.
 *Metro Vickers A.D.S. "One Evening at Nero's," by A. J. Talbot.
 Crescent Players. "Solomon's Folly," by Sidney Box.
 C.W.S. Balloon Street Players. "O.H.M.S.," by Ronald Gow.
 Lymecefield A.D.S. "The Bracelet," by Alfred Sutro.
 The Bollington A.D.S. "Saturday Sensation," by Joan de Fraine.
 The Houldsworth and Reddish A.D.S. "A Marriage has been Arranged," by Muriel and Sidney Box.
 The Stockport A.D.S. "The Lost Hat," by Edward Percy.
 The Richard Harwood A.D.S. "The Seventh Man," by Michael Redgrave.
 The Great Lever A.D.S. "Wurzel Flummery," by A. A. Milne.
 *The Central Office A.D.S. (Fine Spinners). "A Room in a Tower," by Hugh Stewart.

West Lancashire and Cheshire.

**Aigburth Vale High School Old Girls' Dramatic Circle. "Cradle Song" Act I., by G. and M. Sierra.
 The Ashtonian Players. "Love and Uncle Henry," by H. Penson.
 Beechcroft Settlement, Birkenhead "Jane Wogan," by Florence Howell.
 Birkenhead Gas Dept. A.D. Society. "The Long Voyage Home," by Eugene O'Neill.
 Birkenhead Rover-Ranger Players. "Compromise," by Ronald Gow.
 Birkenhead Secondary School Old Girls' D.S. "Vindication," by Hines and King.
 Elsinore Group, Widnes. "Sad about Europe," by Philip Johnson; "Reveille," by Charles Scott.
 The Hoylelake Parade School Old Students' Amateur Dramatic Society. "They Went Forth," by H. F. Rubinstein.



SCENE FROM "A ROGUE IN BED" BY
RONALD MITCHELL. FESTIVAL PRO-
DUCTION BY THE BLACKWOOD DRAMATIC
SOCIETY. TO REPRESENT WALES AT THE
NATIONAL FINAL.



Photo: H. J. Milligan

SCENE FROM THE "MOCK DOCTOR" BY
HENRY FIELDING. FESTIVAL PRODUCTION
BY THE ABINGDON GUILD OF ABBEY
PLAYERS, EASTERN AREA FINAL.

BRITISH DRAMA LEAGUE COMMUNITY THEATRE FESTIVAL

Littlewoods Amateur Dramatic Society. "The Chimney Corner," by M. E. Atkinson; "Thread o' Scarlet," by J. J. Bell; "The Corridors of the Soul," by N. Evreinov.

Liverpool Municipal Technical Students' Association. "The Lost Hat," by Edward Percy.

Minster A.D.S. "The Good and the Bad," by Philip Johnson.

The Players Dramatic Society. "Five at the 'George'," by Stuart Ready.

St. Mark's Players. "Witches' Brew," by Dorothy McArdle.

Wallasey Playgoers' Club. "The Fisherman's Wife," by T. H. Stafford.

Wharfedale Players, Southport. "Hobson's Choice" Act I, by Harold Brighouse.

SCOTLAND.

The Eleventh Annual Festival in Scotland successfully reached its final stage in Inverness on Saturday, April 10th. The entries in 1937 totalled 357. This year a junior section has been introduced tentatively in which there were six entries; it is proposed to take steps to increase the entry in this section next year. A decrease is observed in the number of entries from Women's Rural Institutes and clubs for the Unemployed. This is rather a matter for satisfaction since in many cases the dramatic sections of Women's Rural Institutes have now grown into self-supporting and separate dramatic societies and a number of the Unemployed Centres have now become subscribing members of the S.C.D.A. The drop of 27 in the total entries will appear to be a normal fluctuation.

The entries for the British Drama League Festival have decreased by 25 to 49. 50 teams entered Original Plays.

102 Preliminary Festival Sessions were held at a total of 48 centres.

After the Preliminary Stage, Divisional Festivals were held as follows:—

Centre.	Teams.	Adjudicator.
Edinburgh ...	12 ...	T. Gordon Blyth
Glasgow ...	15 ...	Wilfrid Grantham
Stirling ...	6 ...	Wilfrid Grantham
Inverurie ...	9 ...	Henzie Raeburn
Dingwall ...	11 ...	J. Grant Anderson

Ten teams appeared at the Scottish Final Festival in the Empire Theatre, Inverness on April 8th, 9th and 10th. The adjudicator appointed was Mr. F. Sladen-Smith who was most unfortunately compelled to retire after the first night owing to indisposition. The Association was extremely fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Gordon Gildard of the

British Broadcasting Corporation to complete the adjudication. Mr. Gildard had been present at the first session so that no difficulty in the continuity of judgment arose.

The winning team was the Newbattle Burns Club Dramatic Society in "Hewers of Coal," by Joe Corrie, and the runners-up, the Glasgow Institute Dramatic Club in "The Bread of Affliction" by A. Greenbaum. As the Newbattle Burns Club Dramatic Society is affiliated to the British Drama League, it will represent the Scottish Area at the London Final Festival of the British Drama League Community Theatre in May.

A particularly encouraging feature of this year's Scottish Final and one which indicates clearly the impetus which the Festival has given to the Drama in Scotland, is the fact that seven out of the ten plays presented were by Scottish authors, one of the other three was on a Scottish theme and inspired directly by a visit to the Highlands; three fall in the category of Original Plays.

SCOTTISH (B.D.L.) ENTRIES.

Ad Astra Players. "The Causeway Comic," by Hal. D. Stewart; "One Evening at Nero's," by A. J. Talbot. Ardeer Recreation Club Dramatic Section. "Assassination," by Joe Corrie.

Banff Dramatic Society. "Carion Crow," by Leonard J. Hines and Frank King; "Official Announcement," by E. M. Elder.

Barr and Stroud Dramatic Club. "After All Those Years," by Joe Corrie; "Object all Sublime," by Frederick Ferris.

*B.C.I. Players' Dramatic Club. "Husbands Supplied" by Falkland L. Cary; "The End of Courage," by T. B. Morris.

*Bearsden Dramatic Club. "The Distant Drum," by Philip Johnson.

*Berwick-on-Tweed Amateur Dramatic Society. "Fire Below," by Leonard J. Hines and Frank King.

Berwick-on-Tweed High School Dramatic Club. "The Hour Glass," by W. B. Yeats.

**Blue Triangle Players, Kirkcaldy. "Pride and Prejudice" (Act I, Sc. i.) Dramatized by Helen Jerome from the Novel by Jane Austen.

Brechin Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. Players. "The Lady with the Lamp," (Act II, Sc. 2), by Reginald Berkeley.

Brora Players. "The Old Women," Anon.; "The Queen's Dishonour," by Ella Boswell and Eric Victor.

Corstorphine Literary Association Players. "The Admirable Crichton" (Act II) by J. M. Barrie; "Great Catherine," by George Bernard Shaw.

*Dundee Dramatic Society. "Villa for Sale," by Sacha Guitry.

Dunkeld Players. "The Dear Departed," by Stanley Houghton.

*Edinburgh Womens' Athletic Club Dramatic Section. "The Shadow of a Queen," by T. B. Morris; "The Charlady and the Angel," by Horace Shipp.

BRITISH DRAMA LEAGUE COMMUNITY THEATRE FESTIVAL

- *Falkirk High School F.P. Dramatic Circle. "Grandpa Reds Up," by Robert McIntosh.
- Forfar Dramatic Society. "His Own Country," by C. Stewart Black.
- Gatehouse Dramatic Club. "Everybody's Husband," by Gilbert Cannan; "The Arrow by Day," by Leonard J. Hines and Frank King.
- Glasgow Corporation Transport Players. "Russian Roundabout," by Alex. C. Ross.
- *Haddington W.R.I. "Why the Chimes Rang," by Eliz. A. McFadden.
- *Kirkwall Amateur Dramatic Society. "Solomon's Folly," by Sydney Box.
- Lennox Village Players. "E. & O.E.," by E. Crawshaw Williams.
- *Newbattle Burns Club Dramatic Society. "Hewers of Coal," by Joe Corrie; "The Inside World," by Joe Corrie.
- Paisley Players Club. "Self Made Man," by Sydney Box.
- *Pantheon Club, Glasgow. "Lady Precious Stream," by S. I. Hsiung; "The Glory o' It," by Joe Corrie; "Song of Songs," by C. Stewart Black.
- Prestwick Players Club. "There's Money Coming to You," by Peter Florin; "The Crown of St. Felice," by F. Sladen-Smith.
- Saxone Dramatic Club. "The Monk and the Miller," by C. Stewart Black.
- St. Andrews Dramatic Society. "Fumed Oak," by Noel Coward.
- Stromness Amateur Dramatic Society. "They Refuse to be Resurrected," by N. K. Smith; "Derelict," by Philip Johnson.
- *Studio Players. "Song of Songs," by C. Stewart Black; "The Bus Stops," by Landon Sorrell.
- *Torch Theatre Club. "Unknown Destination," by Harry Penson; "The Flaw," by Cyril Roberts.
- *Troon Ex-Servicemen's Amateur Dramatic Club. "The Maid of Domremy," by Joe Corrie.
- Unitarian Players. "Cupid Rampant," by Percy Corry.

WELSH AREA REPORT, 1937.

The Annual Festival in Wales has again passed off with great success. The entries which were drawn entirely from South Wales and Monmouthshire showed a slight increase over those of last year.

The unusually severe weather experienced during the period of the Festival greatly affected the numbers at two or three of the centres. Illness also resulted in the withdrawal of some of the entrants. These withdrawals made it necessary to rearrange some of the teams at the last minute. In spite of these mishaps the enthusiasm has not diminished and great keenness was shown by both players and audiences.

The Division this year secured the services of one of the newly elected League Adjudicators in the person of Mr. Jack Carlton who proved himself to be a thoroughly capable and convincing judge. His talks with the teams

at the conclusion of each evening's work proved most beneficial.

Wales, is finding in the Festival a useful field for the discovery of new playwrights. Of the five new plays staged in this year's Festival, two have found a place in the Area Final.

For the third year in succession the Final was again staged at Mardy on April 14th. This has become the outstanding event of the year in South Wales and the hall with a seating capacity of nearly a 1,000 was entirely booked up before the results of the Preliminary Rounds were known. The Adjudicator for the Final was Mr. Rupert Harvey who proved so popular when he adjudicated the Preliminary Rounds last year.

The Northern Division of the Area has recently been re-organised and is now controlled by an entirely new body. We are looking forward and hoping that the activities of the new committee will result in several entries from the Division for the 1938 Festival.

WELSH AREA ENTRIES.

- Grovian Players. "There is no Return," by Eric Bradwell.
- Castellau Repertory Players. "Anniversary," by Cyril Crowhurst.
- Bethel (Maesteg). "Sanctuary," by Phoebe Rees.
- Bassaleg D.S. "Jane Wogan," by Florence Howell.
- Caerphilly Players. "Official Announcement," by E. Elder; "Object All Sublime," by F. Ferris.
- *Tonyfelin D.S. "The Affairs at Bryngoleu" Act 1., by Cynon Evans.
- Blackwood St. Margarets. "The Strait Gate," by A. O. Roberts; "Five Birds in a Cage," by Gertrude Jennings.
- Barry Players. "The Insect Play" Act 3., by Capek.
- Penarth. "Black Night," by John Bourne.
- Cyclone Players. "Black Night," by John Bourne.
- *Cardiff Little Theatre. "Travellers Rest," by D. O. W. Harris.
- West Grove D.S. "In the Tunnel," by R. Jordan; "There is no Return," by Eric Bradwell.
- Cardiff Lit. and Dram. Club. "The Man who wouldn't go to Heaven," by F. Sladen-Smith.
- Mardy D.S. "Underground," by K. Etheridge; "The Bakehouse," by J. O. Francis.
- Blackwood D.S. "The End of Courage," by T. B. Morris; "The Charlady and the Angel," by H. Shipp; "White Queen, Red Queen," by T. B. Morris; "A Rogue in a Bed," by R. Elwy Mitchell.
- Brecon Little Theatre. "And now—the Journey," by C. C. Carter.
- Brynmawr. "The Cloak," by C. Bax.
- Crickhowell. "Money makes a Difference," by F. Morton Howard.
- Cwm-dare Welfare. "The Lady of the Fountain," by E. J. Williams.
- Llanfihangel. "The Poacher," by J. O. Francis.
- Llanelli Y.M.C.A. "The Lovely Lady," by Walter Knight; "The Victim," by Evan John.

BRITISH DRAMA LEAGUE COMMUNITY THEATRE FESTIVAL

Cymric Players. "Living on the Wind," by K. Etheridge; "The Call" (Act 2), by K. Etheridge; "The Lamp," by K. Etheridge.
 Treharris D.S. "The Corridors of the Soul," by N. N. Everinov; "Underground," by K. Etheridge; "Dear Brutus" Act 3, by J. M. Barrie.

Troedyrhiw. "11 a.m.," by M. Reid-Jamison.
 Llanelly Amateurs. "The Trumpet in the Dust," by Constant Colne.
 *Garrick D.S. "A Rogue in Bed," [by R. E. Mitchell.

NEWS FROM NORTH AND SOUTH

COMING PERFORMANCE BY THE INSTITUTE OF MIME.

There is a public for the art of Mime and the unspoken drama in England. But as yet little of it has been seen in the West End Theatre. The performance by the Institute of Mime which is to be given at the Duke of York's Theatre on Sunday, 13th June will show this delightful and little known branch of the Theatre Arts in all its varied aspects. The programme will constitute a history of mimetic art. It will open with an Idyll of Theocritus and adaptations of the old Religious Dramas, including a mimetic version of "The Deluge." The Commedia dell'Arte will be represented by a translation from the French of a spoken Harlequin play based on a synopsis of Goldoni. French mime will be represented by one act of the famous wordless play "L'Enfant Prodiges," by Michel Carre, to music by Andre Wormser, while mime in modern life will be shown in a satiric comedy, as well as in a study of the agricultural and fishing folk of Scotland. This last will be staged by a team of players from Edinburgh.

Among the producers will be Miss Ruby Ginner, Miss Elinor Shan, Miss Joyce Ruscoe, Miss Helga Burgess, and Miss Peggy Butler who has done so much to popularise mime in Scotland.

Full particulars on application to Mr. E. P. Genn, 8, Palace Court, W.2.

WORKINGTON PLAYGOERS' CLUB.

This Club, which was formed in January, 1936, was fortunate in being able to lease very cheaply a disused theatre, the Theatre Royal, and soon developed a large and enthusiastic membership.

The first full season has recently been completed. Fifteen meetings have been held during the winter, including three play-readings, two programmes of one-act plays, three performances of full-length plays, four social functions, and two public productions. Of the last-named, the first, in December, was of "Hobson's Choice," and the second, in March, of "St. Joan." The presentation of the latter has brought a very successful season to a triumphant close.

It is a remarkable achievement for so young a club to stage this play, and it was only made possible by much hard thought and work on the part of the Stage Committee, in providing convincing and even impressive settings and lighting effects for all seven scenes. Careful casting, prolonged rehearsing, the hiring of the actual Sybil Thorndike production costumes, and the thoroughness and attention to detail of the producer, Mr. J. M. Banner Mendus, (who is President of the Club), gave the play every chance, and its final success was assured by the brilliant performance of Miss Zena Harrison, who brought to it the skilful technique, the youthful naive simplicity, and the touch of inspiration that the part of the Maid demands.

The result was a magnificent and very moving pre-

sensation which was enthusiastically received and fully appreciated by crowded houses. S. B. B.

"THE CHERRY ORCHARD."

Those who complain that Tchekov is gloomy should have been present at the Baber Repertory Company's production of "The Cherry Orchard" on Sunday, March 7th. The performance was given at the West Central Hall before a large and appreciative audience. The principal parts were all played with great sincerity, and conveyed just the right feeling of futility and detachment, but here and there among the minor characters the Tchekov feeling was lost in the determination to keep the play bright.

The settings were simple and effective, particularly in the second act, where a lighted backcloth was used, and the curtains arranged to represent the trunks of trees. The gradual deepening from the red glow of sunset to the electric blue of dusk, the diaphanous quality of the dresses, and the excellent grouping made this scene extremely beautiful.

The cherry orchard backcloth in the first act was rather inadequate; it was hard to believe that anyone could feel emotion at the sight of those stark boughs, which appeared to be laden with a particularly heavy fall of snow, and still more difficult to imagine that they had sapped the vitality of hundreds of serfs. It would have been better to have left Tchekov's words to paint the backcloth. In the final act, when the cherry orchard has disappeared (and most of the furniture) the scene had simple dignity correlative with the acting. The younger generation depart eager to explore fresh fields, the older generation bid a reluctant farewell to the home of their childhood, and the room is left silent, bare. Then, like a shadow, creeps in the old man, forgotten in the hurry of departure—old Russia dying in the old house which is soon to be pulled down to make way for the bungalows of new Russia.

HEATHER CONWAY.

INTERNATIONAL PAX PLAYERS' ASSOCIATION.

The Third Annual Conference, and Second Festival of Peace Plays, organised by the International Pax Players Association will be held at Digswell Park Conference House, Welwyn, Herts, during the weekend of Saturday 12th June to Monday morning, 14th.

Lectures and discussions will be held upon the "Drama of this and other Nations," and already Dr. Stefan Hock, the eminent producer, has promised to lecture upon "Austrian Drama and Theatre." The speakers list is not complete yet, but amongst those who already intimated their wish to attend are Miss Ivy Tresmand, Mr. Maurice Browne, Mr. Laurence Housman and Mr. Milton Rosmer.

Further particulars can be obtained from the Hon. Organiser, Mrs. E. Eunice Horner, 48, Arlington Street Islington, London, N.1.

VILLAGE DRAMA PLAY-WRITING COMPETITION

VILLAGE DRAMA SECTION PLAYWRITING COMPETITION, 1937.

Our most grateful thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. Martin Browne and to Mr. G. E. T. Mayfield for all the trouble and time they have given to judging this Competition. Their report appears below. I am not making any announcement about a future competition until after the matter has been discussed at the Exeter Conference.

JANET SCRUTTON.

JUDGES' REPORT.

The majority of the entries were sent by people who have no knowledge of playwriting. Many of the entrants showed some ability to write dialogue, but nearly all were weak in their construction of the play.

Many of them showed clearly that they had no experience of village play-production, and had not made proper enquiries into the limitations of staging and casting. Thus in two classes no award was possible because quite competent plays were entirely unsuitable for village use.

The competition as at present constituted with its nominal entrance fee, has obviously encouraged a great number of people to inflict upon us plays which are of no value. It may be competitors tend, when they see that playwriting is adjudicated upon for practically nothing to regard playwriting as a dilettante pursuit. Certainly the standard has definitely fallen this year to an unusually low level. There is not in the competition one play which is worthy of publication or production as it stands.

AWARDS.

CLASS I. TRANSLATIONS.

"Hodge at Home" (and Best Play) by Salsifis (Miss Cecily Radford).

CLASS II. ONE-ACT COMEDY.

"Traveller's Joy" by Janet P. Butt (Miss Dorothea Street).

CLASS III. ONE-ACT SERIOUS PLAY.

"The Hillside Crib" by Joan Hale (Miss F. Collins)

CLASS IV. ONE-ACT ROMANTIC OR POETIC PLAY.

No Award. The only play which was at all competent "Fair Rosamund" by Genifrede (Mrs. Valentine) was quite unsuitable.

CLASS V. ONE HOUR PLAY.

No Award. Two plays, "A Laiking Neet" by Sophia (George Taylor) and "The Fairies of Willey Howe" by Robert Bretlyngton (Robert Horspool) more fit for publication after much rewriting.

CLASS VI. FULL-LENGTH PLAY.

No Award. The only possible play, "The Tanner's Daughter" by Squidge (Mrs. Kenward Matthews) once more quite unsuitable.

HONOURABLE MENTION.

CLASS I. "The Haunted Palace" by Autolycus (Stephen Schofield).

CLASS II. "The Wager," by Bettinger (Miss Everan Burrell); "The Magic Coat," by Graham Salter (Miss F. Ainsworth); "Evening in Brackenriggs" by Fell (Miss K. M. Brown).

CLASS V. "A Laiking Neet," by Sophia (George Taylor); "The Fairies of Willey Howe" by Robert Bretlyngton (Robert Horspool).

HENZIE RAEBURN.

E. MARTIN BROWNE.

G. E. T. MAYFIELD.

CONFERENCE ON THE TEACHING OF DRAMA.

A second Conference on the Teaching of Drama is to be organised by the British Drama League, the Tutors Association, and University College of the South West in co-operation, and will be held at the University College of the South West, Exeter, July 2nd-5th. The general subject of this Conference will be "The Creation of Drama," and it is hoped that this will awaken a valuable discussion on the best means of stimulating creative powers among drama classes in town and country.

The object is not to give technical instruction in play-production, but to discuss methods of teaching, and the experience of the tutors with their classes will make a very important contribution to the discussion.

Among the speakers will be Mr. Cecil Day Lewis, who will open the Conference by a talk on "The Basis of Living Drama," Dr. Gordon Bottomley on "The Making of a Play," and Mr. Richard Southern on "Improvisation." Other subjects will include: "The Background of the Village Players," "The Background of the Town Players," "The Folk Theatre in other Lands," "The Building up of the Movement."

It will be seen that this Conference is planned, not for producers as such, but primarily for tutors of adult classes in drama, for those working among drama groups in Social Service Centres, and for dramatic advisers to adult groups. It should, however, also be of interest to those responsible for dramatic work among adolescents and with the higher forms of schools.

A NEW RELEASE.

Messrs. Samuel French inform us that "The Fugitives" by Walter Hackett, is now available for amateur presentation. The play is in a prologue and three acts, with four changes of scene.

"HIS LADY SECRETARY."

In a recent review this comedy of Compton Irving's was erroneously described as a one-act play, whereas it is in three acts with one interior scene throughout, and a low performance fee.

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